

*This brochure is designed to inform you
whether open burning is in compliance with the
Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code.*

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Revised Code. You can view the entire Indianapolis/Marion County Revised Code online at www.indy.gov.

2. Enforcement. Violation of this ordinance will result in a warning, ticket or summons to court. Warnings are often issued to first time residential violators/violators causing a nuisance to health or businesses.

3. Citations. Civil zoning citations in the amount of \$50.00 are issued for continued non-compliance with one of the listed zoning violations.

4. Repeat Violations. Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in fines up to \$2,500.00.

Department of Code Enforcement

*Driving public safety and improving quality
of life through the efficient and effective ad-
ministration of:*

- *LICENSES*
- *PERMITS*
- *INSPECTIONS*

*For a complete list of services and resources, visit
www.indy.gov/dce or contact us via:*

LOBBY HOURS:

<i>Monday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Noon - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</i>

**There are many ways to report a
violation or neighborhood concern:**

P: (317) 327-4MAC (4622)

W: Indy.gov/RequestIndy

App: [RequestIndy](#) (iPhone & Android)



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OPEN BURNING



Department of Code Enforcement

Indianapolis

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P: (317) 327-8700 - F: (317) 327-8696 - W: Indy.gov/dce

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OPEN BURNING

Simply thought of as burning things outside, “open burning” has residual effects well beyond the scope of the naked eye. It creates both health and environmental risks, while producing possible smoke and odor nuisance to those nearby.

Studies show that even small camp fires burning clean wood can release toxic chemicals into the air. And burning unclean materials presents an even greater hazard. Thus, before lighting that fire, remember to protect yourself, your neighbors, and your wallet by knowing what and where you can burn.

The major provisions for open burning are:

1. Only dried twigs, limbs and branches originating from the property can be burned. **LEAVES, PAPER, TRASH, TREATED WOOD, OR GARBAGE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE BURNED.**
2. Maintain a means to extinguish the fire at all times while burning.
3. Use a non-combustible container with a ventilated mesh covering containing openings no greater than 1/4 inch.
4. Burning is allowed only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3 p.m.
5. Burning must occur at least 15 feet from any structure.
6. Attend the fire at all times.
7. Prevent creating a nuisance.
8. Per Chapter 511, businesses are not allowed to burn.

OPEN BURNING & YOUR HEALTH

Open Burning affects everyone. The nature and quantity of smoke generated by burning depends on the type of materials burned and the current environmental conditions. However, all smoke contains pollutants, some of which are toxic. These pollutants can harm the health of your family and neighbors, as well as the environment. Additionally, if not controlled, fires can destroy property.

Smoke from burning five pounds of leaves alone contains about a pound of air pollution. Because initially the smoke is relatively close to the ground, that it can be inhaled before dispersing into the atmosphere causing irritation to the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. And once airborne, the smoke can drift into surrounding areas causing even more related issues.

Often, the smoke generated has the greatest impact on those with asthma, emphysema, bronchitis, pneumonia, or allergies. It is not uncommon for smoke from open burning to exacerbate these conditions, which could lead to severe difficulty breathing. Individuals with pre-existing lung problems, and women who are pregnant or nursing could suffer more serious health effects.

Repeated exposure to smoke can also cause developmental problems in children, and increase the chances of developing cancer. Even healthy children are affected by small particles of mold, fungi, and chemical pollutants found in smoke.

ALTERNATIVES TO OPEN BURNING

Solid Waste Disposal

One good alternative to burning yard waste like twigs and small limbs is disposing them as a solid waste. Twigs and small limbs from shrubbery cuttings must be tied in bundles no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet. Each bundle will count as one bag that can be collected by Solid Waste on designated street trash pickup day. Solid Waste collectors will pickup 10 bags per week per resident.

The following items will **not** be picked up:

- Trees
- Large tree limbs
- Tree stumps
- Brush and vegetation from tree trimmers or lawn services

Composting

Composting is the use of decaying organic matter such as leaves, twigs, grass clippings, etc. as fertilizer. Composting is a logical way to improve the soil conditions in your lawn, garden or planter. It is less expensive to compost your yard waste than to bag it and haul it away.

Nearly all yard wastes can go into a compost heap. Consult a local hardware or home improvement store for tips and the latest composting tools.

Additionally, the city of Indianapolis Works conducts the annual Leaf Collection Program to help our citizens dispose of the large number of leaves each fall. This program helps your Indianapolis/Marion County environment by turning the leaves into useable compost, offered free to citizens, to help strengthen and beautify lawns and gardens county-wide.